(viii) Kasturba Gandhi Swatantrata Vidyalayas proposed to be implemented during Tenth Five Year Plan are to improve literacy among the women belonging to SCs & STs.

(ix) The scheme of National Programme for Education of Girls at Elementary Level (NPEGEL) has been started as a component of SSA during Tenth Five Year Plan in Educationally Backward Blocks where rural female literacy is less than national average and gender gap is above the national average.

(x) Remedial and Special Coaching to improve academic skills.

(xi) Preparation of text books in tribal language.

(d) No separate targets are fixed under the schemes/programmes of the Ministry. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) adopts 'Zero Rejection Policy' so that no child is left out of the education system.

Child and women nutrition

†1944. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards news item appeared in the media regarding "Kuposhan Ki Maar";

(b) whether reasons for child-nutrition and the poor rate of woman-nutrition have been ascertained; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI JASKAUR MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The reasons for malnutrition among children and women have been ascertained by various organizations from time to time.

Malnutrition is reported to be an outcome of an interrelated set of factors ranging from food insecurity at the household level due to proverty and low purchasing power, ignorance of child feeding practices, poor access to health care, safe drinking water, sanitation and other social services, to high rate of population growth.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) A number of interventions to address the problem of undernutrition are already being implemented by the Government of India *viz.*, the national Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme and Nutrition Education Programmes of Department of Women and Child Development, Reproductive and Child Health (RCH) Programme of Department of Family Welfare, National IDD Control Programme of Department of Health, programmes for ensuring food security for the people by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Poverty Alleviation and Food for Work Programmes fo Ministry of Rural Development and Mid Day Meal scheme of Department of Education. It has been decided by the Government to set up a National Nutrition Mission under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Prime Minister *vide* Notification publised in the Gazette of India on 31.7.2003. The Terms of Reference of the National Nutrition Mission include reviewing the National Nutrition Policy and National Plan of Action on Nutrition, existing strategies adopted by various Ministries concerned with nutrition and revising them for achieving the goals set out by the mission, to put in place an effective mechanism for intersectoral coordination and a system of data collection and monitoring of the nutritional status across different regions, particularly of the vulnerable population in the country.

Reservation for poor students in Public Schools

1945. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a proposal to compel elite Public Schools to reserve a percentage of their seats for the poor and underprivileged students in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and specific objects of the proposed move;

(c) whether the matter has been discussed with various States and concerned organisations dealing with problems of education and educational administration; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?